

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The title of the invention stands objected to as allegedly not being descriptive.

The drawings stand objected to because Figures 4, 5A, and 5B allegedly should be labeled "Prior Art."

Claims 1-4 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Haskal et al.* (USPN 5,952,778).

Claims 1, 5-10 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Suzuki et al.* (USPN 6,198,217).

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suzuki et al.* (USPN 6,198,217).

Claims 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suzuki et al.* (USPN 6,198,217) in view of *Shibata* (USPN 4,489,101).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 6, 9-10, 12, 15 and 18, and have added new claims 23-24. Accordingly, claims 1-24 are pending. Herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 9 and 18 do not alter the intended scope of the claims and have been amended merely to correct informalities. In addition, Applicants have amended the title of the invention and submit herewith Replacement Drawing Sheets.

The Objection to the Title

The title of the invention stands objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. Applicants have amended the title of the invention in accordance with the comments of the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

The Objection to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to because Figures 4, 5A, and 5B allegedly should be labeled "Prior Art." In Replacement Drawing Sheets submitted herewith, Applicants have amended Figures 4, 5A, and 5B to include the label "Prior Art." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 1-4 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Haskal et al.* (USPN 5,952,778). Claims 1, 5-10 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Suzuki et al.* (USPN 6,198,217). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suzuki et al.* (USPN 6,198,217). Claims 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suzuki et al.* (USPN 6,198,217) in view of *Shibata* (USPN 4,489,101). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

With respect to the rejections based on *Haskal et al.*, Applicants respectfully assert that dielectric layer 32 of *Haskal et al.* cannot be considered to be a "first sealing layer" because the metal layer 30 is provided so that the dielectric layer 32 does not completely seal the light

emitting composition 20 (which is alleged to be a laminate structure) and, therefore, should not be considered to be a sealing layer. In the alternative, the metal layer 30 of *Haskal et al.* cannot be considered to be a "first sealing layer" because the metal layer 30 is formed in a stripe shape and does not seal the light emitting composition 20.

With respect to the rejections based on *Suzuki et al.*, Applicants respectfully assert that the applied art does not teach or suggest a combination having first, second, and third sealing films as recited by amended claims 1 and 10. Applicants respectfully assert that the structure disclosed by *Suzuki et al.* is a double layer structure and, therefore lacks first second, and third sealing films. With respect to the structure of Figure 2 in *Suzuki et al.*, Applicants respectfully note that member 30 is not formed on the inorganic barrier layer 22 and, therefore, should not be considered to be a third layer as claimed.

Applicants respectfully assert that the Office Action does not rely on *Shibata* to teach any of the above discussed features. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that *Shibata* cannot remedy any of the above discussed deficiencies.

Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) should be withdrawn because the applied art, whether taken singly or combined, do not teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1 and 10, as amended. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-9 and 11-22 are allowable at least because of their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 10, as amended, and the reasons set forth above.

New Claims 23-24

Applicants have added new dependent claims 23-24 to further define the invention.

Applicants respectfully assert that new dependent claims 23-24 are allowable over the applied art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By: 

Robert J. Goodell

Reg. No. 41,040

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Customer Number 009629

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20004

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 6, 9-10, 12, 15 and 18 and add new claim 23-24 so that the claims read as follows:

1 (Currently Amended): An organic EL cell for preventing moisture that deteriorates the light-emitting characteristics of the organic EL cell, comprising:

a substrate;

a laminate structure formed on the substrate, wherein the laminate structure includes at least an anode, an organic light emitting layer, and a cathode;

a first sealing film formed on the laminate structure; ~~and~~

a second sealing film formed on the first sealing film; and

a third sealing film formed on the second sealing film.

2 (Original): The organic EL cell of claim 1, wherein the first sealing film is an inorganic passivation film and the second sealing film is a resin film.

3 (Currently Amended): The organic EL cell of claim [[2]] 1, ~~further comprising a third sealing film formed on the second sealing film,~~ wherein the third sealing film is an inorganic passivation film.

4 (Original): The organic EL cell of claim 3, wherein the first sealing film and the third sealing film are selected from a group consisting of silicon nitride, SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , and diamond-like carbon (DLC).

5 (Original): The organic EL cell of claim 1, wherein the first sealing film is a resin film and the second sealing film is an inorganic passivation film.

6 (Currently Amended): The organic EL cell of claim 5, ~~further comprising a third sealing film formed on the second film~~, wherein the third sealing film is a resin film.

7 (Original): The organic EL cell of claim 6, wherein the second sealing film is selected from a group consisting of silicon nitride, SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , and diamond-like carbon (DLC).

8 (Original): The organic EL cell of claim 7, wherein the second sealing film is formed by vapor deposition.

9 (Currently Amended): The organic EL cell of claim 4, wherein the first sealing film and the third sealing ~~film~~ film are formed by vapor deposition.

10 (Currently Amended): A method for producing an organic EL cell for preventing moisture that deteriorates the light-emitting characteristics of the organic EL cell and that includes a substrate and a laminate structure formed on the substrate, wherein the laminate structure includes at least an anode, an organic light emitting layer, and a cathode, comprising the steps of forming a first sealing film on the laminate structure and, forming a second sealing film on the first sealing film, and forming a third sealing film on the second sealing film.

11 (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the first sealing film is an inorganic passivation film and the second sealing film is a resin film.

12 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11, ~~further comprising the step of forming a third sealing film on the second sealing film,~~ wherein the third sealing film is an inorganic passivation film.

13 (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein the first sealing film and the third sealing film are selected from a group consisting of silicon nitride, SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , and diamond-like carbon (DLC).

14 (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the first sealing film is a resin film and the second sealing film is an inorganic passivation film.

15 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14, ~~further comprising the step of forming a third sealing film on the second sealing film~~, wherein the third sealing film is a resin film.

16 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the second sealing film is selected from a group consisting of silicon nitride, SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , and diamond-like carbon (DLC).

17 (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein the second sealing film is formed by vapor deposition.

18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, wherein the first sealing film and the third sealing ~~film~~ film are formed by vapor deposition.

19 (Original): The method of 16, wherein the inorganic passivation film is that of silicon nitride formed by a plasma CVD.

20 (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein the silicon nitride is formed by the plasma CVD from a raw material gas composed only of silane and nitrogen.

21 (Original): The method of 13, wherein the inorganic passivation film is that of silicon nitride formed by a plasma CVD.

22 (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the silicon nitride is formed by the plasma CVD from a raw material gas composed only of silane and nitrogen.

23 (New): The organic EL cell of claim 1, wherein the second sealing film is formed contacting the first sealing film, and wherein the third sealing film is formed contacting the second sealing film.

24 (New): The organic EL cell of claim 23, wherein the first sealing film is formed contacting the entire surface of the laminate structure to passivate the cathode.